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imagery analysis report

Status of Soviet Military
Transport Aviation (S)

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STATUS OF SOVIET MILITARY TRANSPORT AVIATION (S)

1. (S/WN) This report provides imagery-derived information on significant trends and developments in Soviet Military Transport Aviation (VTA) since 1980. Air order-of-battle was derived from the most recent, clear satellite imagery acquired through [] Figure 1 and Table 1).

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2. (S/WN) The most significant trend in VTA continued to be the force upgrading of CUB regiments with CANDID aircraft. This trend included the completion of upgrading at Tartu Airfield and initial upgrading at Kedainiai Airfield and Zaporozhye Airfield East. In addition, renovation and construction were underway at Seshcha, Zaporozhye East, and Nikolayevskoye Airfields.

3. (S/WN) The CANDID regiment at Tartu Airfield had reached full regimental strength by [] when 25 CANDIDs were present. The number of CANDIDs has steadily increased since this upgrading began in the fall of 1979. At Kedainiai Airfield, the initial, permanent CANDID deployment was first observed on [] when eight CANDIDs were present. This CANDID unit temporarily deployed to Seshcha Airfield in May, while renovations and CANDID revetment construction were underway at Kedainiai Airfield. The unit subsequently returned to Kedainiai and was observed on []. Since then, augmentation of the unit has continued, with a high count of 19 CANDIDs present on []. Initial upgrading at Zaporozhye Airfield East was observed on []. On that date, one CANDID was parked in one of two CUB revetments which had been renovated to support CANDIDs. On imagery of [] three CANDIDs were present (Figure 2), and the number of completed CANDID revetments had increased to four, with two under construction. As in previous CANDID upgrading, construction of CANDID-associated revetments provided the first indication of impending force upgrading at Tartu, Kedainiai, and Zaporozhye East Airfields.

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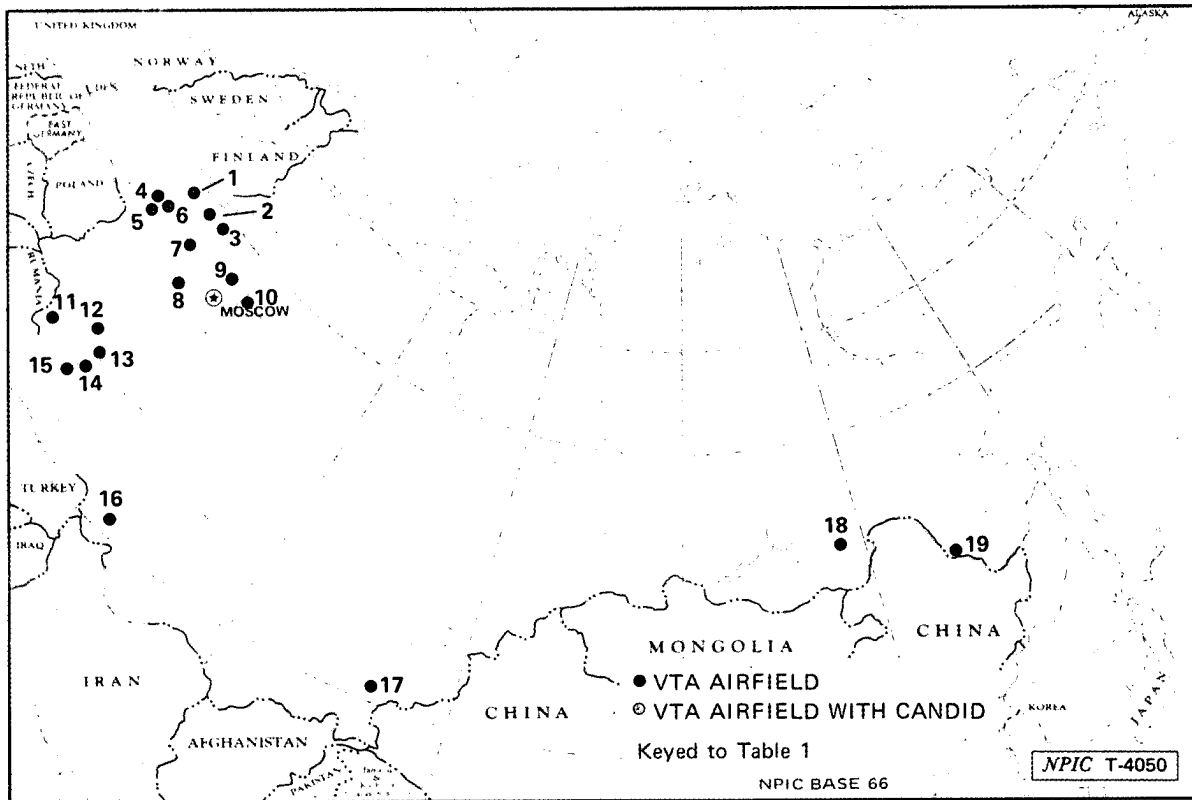
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4. (S/WN) Eight VTA regiments have now been equipped with CANDID aircraft. When formation of the CANDID regiment at Kedainiai is complete, all VTA regiments in the northwestern USSR (the Leningrad and Baltic Military Districts) will have been upgraded, with the exception of Siauliai Airfield. This airfield supports a CUB C/D regiment with an electronic countermeasure (ECM) capability and does not support airlift/airmobile operations. The Zaporozhye upgrading represents the first permanent CANDID deployment to the southwestern military districts and to the southern periphery of the USSR.

5. (S/WN) Along with continuing CANDID revetment construction at Tartu, Kedainiai, and Zaporozhye East Airfields, renovation/construction was underway at three VTA airfields. At Seshcha Airfield, construction of a 600-meter runway extension, which was begun in July 1980, appeared to have been suspended by the fall of 1981. Major renovations occurred at both Zaporozhye East and Nikolayevskoye Airfields during 1981. At Zaporozhye Airfield East, renovations were extensive and included resurfacing of the runway, taxiways, and parking areas. At Nikolayevskoye, renovation was confined to the CUB parking areas and was not identifiable as preparation for force upgrading.

SECRET**FIGURE 1. VTA AIRFIELDS IN THE USSR****IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS**

6. (S/WN) This current trend in VTA has resulted in the displacement of at least 150 CUBs. Small increases in CUBs at repair facilities and CUB exports to Third World countries have occurred. However, only a small percentage of this total can be accounted for from satellite imagery. Storage areas for phased-out CUBs have not been identified, and no other indications of where phased-out CUBs are located have been determined.

IMAGERY

(S/WN) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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Table 1.
Status of Soviet Military Transport
Aviation as of [REDACTED]
(Keyed to Figure 1)

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This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL

Item	Airfield & BE No	Date of Imagery	Air Order- of-Battle	No of CANDID Revetments/Hardstands
1	Tartu [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	23 CANDIDs, 3 CUBs	25
2	Pskov [REDACTED]		25 CANDIDs, 1 CUB	28
3	Krechevitsy [REDACTED]		26 CANDIDs	28
4	Siauliai [REDACTED]		27 CUB C/Ds	1
5	Kedainiai [REDACTED]		19 CANDIDs, 4 CUBs	24
6	Panevezys [REDACTED]		19 CANDIDs, 5 CUBs	28
7	Vitebsk Northeast [REDACTED]		27 CANDIDs, 2 CUBs	25
8	Seshcha [REDACTED]		21 COCKs, 3 CUBs	
9	Kalinin [REDACTED]		19 COCKs, 4 CUBs	
10	Ivanovo North [REDACTED]		11 CANDIDs, 19 COCKs, 18 CUBs	11
11	Chervono-Glinskoye [REDACTED]		28 CUBs	
12	Krivoy Rog East [REDACTED]		22 CUBs	
13	Zaporozhye East [REDACTED]		3 CANDIDs, 23 CUBs	6 (2 ucon)
14	Melitopol [REDACTED]		63 CUBs	
15	Dzhankoy [REDACTED]		25 CUBs	
16	Kirovabad [REDACTED]		25 CUBs	
17	Fergana [REDACTED]		1 CANDID, 16 CUBs, 36 CUBs in repair fac	
18	Nikolayevskoye [REDACTED]		30 CUBs	
19	Zavitinsk Northeast [REDACTED]		28 CUBs	

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